

Mauritius

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Mauritius GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Mauritius could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. The Mauritius GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Form II, III, and IV, conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Mauritius. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 96%, the student response rate was 93%, and the overall response rate was 89%. A total of 2,026 students participated in the Mauritius GYTS.

Prevalence

31.3% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 40.4%, Female = 22.6%)
 14.8% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 21.6%, Female = 8.5%)
 7.5% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

34.8% think boys and 13.2% think girls who smoke have more friends
 13.4% think boys and 6.9% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

23.0% usually smoke at home
 56.3% buy cigarettes in a store
 66.6% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

42.7% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 67.8% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 61.0% think smoking should be banned from public places
 56.3% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 43.7% have one or more parents who smoke
 10.9% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

64.2% want to stop smoking
 64.0% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 74.9% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

71.2% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 40.7% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 10.2% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

50.7% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 27.4% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 50.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- One third of the students have ever smoked a cigarette; 15% currently smoke cigarettes.
- ETS exposure is high – Approximately 2 in 5 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; over 6 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; 2 out of 5 have parents who smoke.
- Over half of the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Two thirds of the students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 3 out of 5 students who currently smoke indicated that they want to stop smoking now.
- 7 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; while approximately 4 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers and magazines in the past 30 days.

* Indicates a cell size of less than 35.